National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

Reply to Attn of: **Office of the Chief Information Officer**

TO: Distribution

FROM: Deputy CIO for Information Technology Security

SUBJECT: Decision to Disallow Substitutions for Basic and Managers Information
Technology Security Awareness Training

In order to achieve consistency in the delivery, compliance, content, completeness, and
reporting of metrics on information technology (IT) security awareness training as mandated
by the Federal Information Systems Management Act of 2002 (FISMA), it is the decision of
the Deputy CIO for IT Security that no substitutions will be allowed for NASA's annual IT
security awareness training.

Background:
In order to meet the requirements of FISMA, every civil servant and support service contractor
within NASA is required to take IT security awareness training. In order to meet this
requirement, NASA has designated two acceptable courses, depending upon each learner's
role within the Agency and the significance of their IT Security responsibilities:
• Basic IT Security for 2008
• IT Security for Managers 2008

Both of these courses are available on NASA's SATERN learning management system
(LMS).

The content of the Basic course is supplied by the Department of Defense (DoD) as part of the
eGov initiative as a Shared Service Center (SSC). The content of the Managers course is
created by NASA's IT Security Awareness and Training Center (ITSATC.) Both courses are
designed to assure that NASA personnel understand their roles and responsibilities to protect
NASA information.

Discussion:
Information technology is integral to almost every group which NASA does business with,
including other Federal agencies, academic partners, and support service contractors. Because
of this, each organization may have an IT security training program that highlights its own
requirements. However, these external IT security programs may not meet the needs of
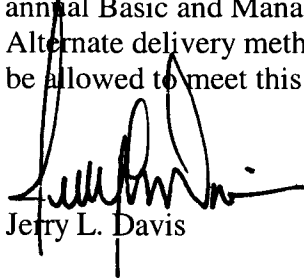NASA for the following reasons:
• External requirements may be different than NASA requirements.

- NASA may modify its test to assure that a specific identified problem area is better understood in response to an identified risk.
- NASA may modify its test in response to a particular problem.
- The NASA IT Security course may supply required content that is outside the scope of traditional IT Security, and which may not be delivered as part of a non-NASA IT security course.

If the SATERN LMS is not accessible, the NASA training material may be delivered by other means (e.g., CD, audio, paper, auditorium presentation). However, if an alternate means of delivery is used to present the content of the approved-IT security awareness training, the training records within SATERN must be updated as this is the source used to generate the annual FISMA report.

Decision:
In order to meet the tenets of FISMA with regards to IT Security Awareness Training, and to assure that all NASA personnel (i.e., civil servants and support service contractors) and individuals with access to NASA systems meet the same requirements, NASA will use the annual Basic and Managers IT Security Training which is available via the SATERN LMS. Alternate delivery methods of this content are allowed, but non-NASA substitutions will not be allowed to meet this requirement.

Jerry L. Davis

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